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Agenda item 10
Regional cooperation

Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

Summary

The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields contains a resolution adopted at the thirty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Africa/first session of the Conference of Ministers of Finance, Economic Development and Planning, originally scheduled for May and held at Johannesburg, South Africa, from 19 to 21 October 2002.

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Matters calling for action by the Council

Economic Commission for Africa

At its thirty-fifth session, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) approved the following draft resolution for adoption by the Council:

Draft resolution I
Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the period 2002-2005

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolution MFC.1 of 5 May 2000, adopted by the Ministerial Follow-up Committee of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development of the Economic Commission for Africa, by which the Committee endorsed the proposed medium-term plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the period 2002-2005,

Having considered the proposals for changes to the medium-term plan as contained in the proposed revisions thereto,[1]

Aware that the Committee for Programme and Coordination, at its forty-second session from 10 June to 9 July 2002, has already considered the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan and offered its comments and observations on the revisions,

Taking into account important developments and events that have occurred since the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan, in particular the proposals of the Secretary-General for further strengthening the United Nations, as contained in his report entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change",[2] the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to consider how to support the New Partnership for Africa's Development[3] as the framework for system-wide support for African development, and Assembly resolution 57/2 of 16 September 2002 entitled "United Nations Declaration on the New Parternship for Africa's Development",

Bearing in mind that both the proposals of the Secretary-General and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development are currently before the General Assembly for its endorsement,

1. *Expresses* its appreciation to the Committee for Programme and Coordination for its comments and recommendations on the medium-term plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the period 2002-2005, which have gone a long way towards improving the medium-term plan;

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[1] E/ECA/CM.1/5.
[2] See A/57/387.
[3] A/57/304, annex.

2. *Proposes* the following additional modifications to the medium-term plan in the light of the new developments that have occurred since the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the plan:

1. Subprogramme 1: Facilitating economic and social policy analysis

(a) In view of the importance of financing in meeting the millennium development goals, the component on mobilizing finance for development which is currently under subprogramme 2, Promoting trade and mobilizing finance for development, should be brought under subprogramme 1 where the work of the Economic Commission for Africa on meeting the millennium development goal of poverty reduction will be addressed. The holistic treatment of the related issues of official development assistance, foreign direct investment, debt relief and capital flight will be critical in achieving coherence in financing for development and poverty reduction. Similarly, the special needs of African least developed, landlocked and small island developing countries should be brought under this subprogramme from subprogramme 2;

2. Subprogramme 2: Promoting trade and mobilizing finance for development

(b) The issues of trade and finance for which this subprogramme was responsible should be integrated into the subprogrammes on Promoting regional cooperation and integration and Facilitating economic and social policy analysis, respectively, in order to achieve greater coherence. Accordingly, the subprogramme on promoting trade and mobilizing finance for development will be discontinued;

3. Subprogramme 3: Enhancing food security and sustainable development

(c) The Conference appeals to the Committee for Programme and Coordination to reconsider its recommendation with respect to the change of name of this subprogramme. This subprogramme should be renamed, Fostering sustainable development, to ensure that the work of the subprogramme appropriately reflects the integrated nature of sustainable development that resulted from the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which adopted a political declaration to take account of the three critical dimensions of sustainable development, namely, economic development, social development, and environmental protection in development planning. In view of the new concept of sustainable development agreed to at the Summit, all survival issues including food security that impact on sustainable development should be regrouped under this subprogramme to ensure that these interrelated issues are treated within a holistic framework, while still maintaining a strong programmatic focus on food security in the subprogramme. Accordingly, activities related to water, mineral and energy resources development and other natural resource issues currently under subprogramme 6, Promoting regional cooperation and integration, will be brought under this subprogramme;

4. Subprogramme 4: Strengthening development management

(d) The orientation of this subprogramme should be changed slightly to reflect the role of the Economic Commission for Africa in support of the African Peer Review Mechanism of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. Accordingly, the following text will be added to the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the period 2002-

2005[1] as a separate paragraph in the section on strategy, under this subprogramme: "The Economic Commission for Africa will continue to work closely with the Steering Committee and Secretariat of the New Parternship for Africa's Development in elaborating the peer review mechanism. In this context, the analytical work of the Economic Commission for Africa and in-depth country studies on monitoring good governance may provide an objective appraisal mechanism to facilitate the assessment of the progress and performance of African Governments in adhering to mutually agreed codes and standards on good governance";

5. Subprogramme 6: Promoting regional cooperation and integration

(e) The component on promoting trade under subprogramme 2, Promoting trade and mobilizing finance for development, should be subsumed under this subprogramme because of the importance of intraregional trade in achieving regional economic integration. Thus, the work under the trade cluster of this subprogramme will focus on examining how trade can contribute to regional integration as a step towards effective integration into the world economy, seizing on the opportunities offered by the new multilateral trade framework established at Doha. This will require providing technical and other capacity-building support to African countries in trade negotiations, especially within the context of the new World Trade Organization agreements and other protocols such as the arrangements between the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the European Union, established at Cotonou. To ensure that the subprogramme appropriately reflects the nature of the issues that it will be dealing with, it should be renamed: Promoting trade and regional integration;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take into consideration these proposals in respect of the revisions to the medium-term plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the period 2002-2005;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to act on the revisions to the medium-term plan in the context of the decision of the General Assembly on the proposed changes thereto.